

# DSMC Dedicates Michael R. Dee Video Services Master Control Center

Friends, Colleagues, Family Attend Commemoration/Dedication Ceremony

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**M**ichael R. Dee would have been overwhelmed to see his name memorialized on the building that he poured 18 years of his life into.

On June 22, his DSMC colleagues, family, and friends dedicated the Video Services Master Control Center, formerly known as the Video Services Department, to Dee's memory.

The late Chief of Audio Visual Support, during his tenure at DSMC, transformed the department from a two-man, one-building shop into a 14-man force with 10 buildings on Fort Belvoir, including 22 classrooms and two auditoriums; and four regional campuses throughout the United States.

## Quite a Different World

"When Mike first arrived at DSMC in 1976, it had just become a college under General Alberts," Navy Rear Adm. "Lenn" Vincent, DSMC Commandant, said in his remarks during the dedication of the building. "Videotape was still new, battling with a choice of Beta or VHS format. His accomplishments at DSMC have had significant impact over the years on classroom instruction, on the faculty's ability to prepare and present materials, and on the students' ability to review lectures and instructional materials."

He also said that DSMC has benefited from the recording of many college events, including changes of commands,



NAVY REAR ADM. "LENN" VINCENT, DSMC COMMANDANT, JOINS MARILYN DEE IN UNVEILING A PLAQUE THAT DEDICATES THE DEE VIDEO SERVICES MASTER CONTROL CENTER, IN MEMORY OF HER LATE HUSBAND, MICHAEL R. DEE.

guest speakers, anniversaries, and conferences. According to Vincent, "His foundation for audio/video production has ultimately laid the cornerstone for early satellite broadcasting and more recent distance learning capabilities."

Vincent also spoke of the legacy Dee left the college. "Today the video services operation he inspired has responsibilities for distance learning and video conferencing, satellite downlinking, the LAN network for messages and broadcasting, video streaming on the Internet, support to the Defense Acquisition Univer-

sity and Office of the Secretary of Defense for conferences and events, video editing in a digital environment, closed-circuit monitoring of classrooms, and digital projection of presentations. "Quite a different world since 1976," he noted.

## New Center Supervisor Remembers Dee

Retired Air Force Master Sgt. John Garnish, current supervisor of the Video Services Master Control Center and Dee's noncommissioned officer-in-charge for a dozen years, remembered the old days during his remarks at the dedication.

Pugh is a staff reporter for the Free Lance-Star, Fredericksburg, Va.

## Defense Systems Management College 1976 — 1994



APLAQUE OVER THE DOOR OF THE FORMER

AUDIO VISUAL SUPPORT OFFICE TELLS ALL CAMPUS VISITORS AND FUTURE STUDENTS JUST HOW IMPORTANT MICHAEL R. DEE WAS IN FURTHERING THE EDUCATION OF THOUSANDS.

"Back then Audio Visual was responsible for everything even remotely related to a classroom," Garnish told the crowd. "It took weeks of work and sometimes we were in on the weekend setting up tables and chairs. Lots of things have changed since then."

### A Word From Dee's Family

Dee's wife, Marilyn, and her mother, Irene Matejcek, were among those in attendance at the dedication ceremony.

Marilyn Dee thanked everyone for the honor bestowed upon her husband. "I know Mike's up there, puffing on his cigar, and looking down on us," she said. "His goals was always to continually improve audio/visual, and I know he's still watching what you do." She went on to say that Dee never, ever really took a vacation from DSMC. Even on vacation, she told those attending, Mike always talked about the job, future projects, and his staff, which he regarded so highly.

"Thank you for this great honor. Mike would be so thrilled and honored — as are we, his family."

Michael R. Dee was born in Washington, D.C., on May 17, 1942. He enlisted in the Air Force after graduation from Chamberlain Vocational High School, working as an electronics technician in Pforzheim, Germany, from 1959 to 1964.

After his stint in the military, Dee set out to learn more about his chosen career field. Classes at Prince George's Community College and research at the Goddard Space Center in Greenbelt, Md., helped him fulfill his later goals.

Dee worked for the Bendix Field Engineering Corporation and RCA from 1964 to 1974, supervising a staff responsible for the upkeep of various spacecraft. His job there entailed operation and maintenance of telemetry and video data processing equipment, as well as flight operations consoles for the Applications Technological Systems Operation Control and the Earth Resources Technological Systems Operation Control Center.

Dee joined the federal government in 1974, working at the TV Branch of the U.S. Navy, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery in Bethesda, Md. There he maintained and built electronic audio visual equipment, supervised and trained personnel, and helped instructors by explaining TV systems and methods for maximizing the system's potential.

In 1976, Dee became the Chief of Audio Visual Support at the college, serving in that capacity for 18 years. He moved the school through an electronic maze as he successfully kept up with fast-moving technology.

Dee's rallying spirit among the audio visual staff elicited fierce loyalty to him and the audio visual mission, further contributing to his successful career at DSMC. Straightforward in his opinions, even when it may not have been politically popular, Dee was a valued consultant at the college — the one to ask for an honest, "what's-best-for-the-college" answer.

Dee himself received several outstanding performance awards, and his staff often won special recognition from customers.

Dee died on Oct. 30, 1994, but his contributions won't be forgotten. A plaque over the door of the former Audio Visual Support Office tells all campus visitors and future students just how important Michael R. Dee was in furthering the education of thousands.

